

CLAIMS

1. A gripping portion for a power tool having a housing and a motor within said housing for actuating an output member of the tool, the gripping portion adapted to be engaged by a hand of a user of the tool and comprising:

at least one blister pack comprising respective first and second flexible sheets defining at least one gel-containing chamber therebetween, wherein said at least one gel-containing chamber contains a vibration damping gel material and said first and second sheets are sealed to each other at the periphery of the at least one said gel containing chamber; and

at least one clamping member for clamping at least one said blister pack to said housing and having at least one aperture therethrough such that at least one said gel-containing chamber protrudes in use through a respective said aperture and substantially none of said vibration damping gel is located in use between said clamping member and the housing.

2. A gripping portion according to claim 1, wherein at least one said blister pack is foldable.

3. A gripping portion according to claim 1, wherein at least one said blister pack is perforated between at least one pair of adjacent chambers.

4. A gripping portion according to claim 1, wherein at least one said blister pack further comprises locating means for enabling the blister pack to be mounted to a support.

5. A gripping portion according to claim 4, wherein said locating means comprises at least one aperture through said blister pack at a respective location remote from said at least one chamber.

6. A gripping portion according to claim 5, further comprising support means adapted to be located on a side of at least one said blister pack remote from the corresponding said engaging portion.

7. A gripping portion according to claim 1, wherein at least one said chamber containing the gel material is at least partially transparent in use.

8. A gripping portion according to claim 1, further comprising at least one visible indicium located in said at least one said chamber.

9. A gripping portion according to claim 8, wherein at least one said visible indicium is electrically operated in use.

10. A gripping portion according to claim 9, wherein at least one said indicium is at least one light emitting diode.

11. A gripping portion according to claim 1, further comprising at least one electrical switch for actuating the tool.

12. A tool comprising:
a housing;
a motor within the housing adapted to actuate an output member of the tool;
and

a gripping portion adapted to be engaged by a hand of a user of the tool and comprising:

at least one blister pack comprising respective first and second flexible sheets defining at least one gel-containing chamber therebetween, wherein said at least one gel-containing chamber contains a vibration damping gel material and said first and second sheets are sealed to each other at the periphery of the at least one said gel containing chamber; and

at least one clamping member for clamping at least one said blister pack to said housing and having at least one aperture therethrough such that at least one said gel-containing chamber protrudes in use through a respective said aperture and substantially none of said vibration damping gel is located in use between said clamping member and the housing.

13. A tool according to claim 12, wherein said gripping portion has an outer surface including at least one material of higher coefficient of friction than the material of the housing of the tool.

14. A power tool comprising a housing having a handle and a motor to actuate an output member of the tool, said handle comprising a gripping portion and a chamber enclosing a gel material extending outwardly from said gripping portion, wherein, said chamber is disposed relative to the gripping portion such that both the gripping portion and the chamber are simultaneously gripped during operation of the tool.

15. The power tool recited in claim 14, said gripping portion comprising a material which is relatively hard as compared to said gel material.

16. The power tool recited in claim 14, said handle further comprising a cover piece made of a material which is relatively hard as compared to said gel material, said cover piece including an aperture through which said chamber protrudes, said cover piece forming at least a part of said gripping portion of said handle at the location of said cover piece.

17. The power tool recited in claim 16, said chamber formed as a blister pack assembly including said gel material enclosed between upper and lower layers of flexible film, said blister pack assembly retained on said handle by said cover piece.

18. The power tool recited in claim 17, said handle defining a recess, said blister pack assembly disposed in said recess.

19. The power tool recited in claim 17 further comprising a flexible sheet, said flexible sheet disposed between said blister pack and said cover piece and having a protrusion extending through said aperture and accommodating said chamber.

20. The power tool recited in claim 16 including a second said chamber enclosing a gel material, said two chambers of gel material discrete from each other, said cover piece having two apertures, each said chamber protruding through one of said apertures.

21. The power tool recited in claim 16, said chamber and said cover piece each having a curved outer surface.

22. The power tool recited in claim 16, said handle gripping portion including a region which does not include said cover piece, said region being curved, said cover piece having a curved outer surface which substantially merges into said curved region.

23. The power tool recited in claim 14, said chamber formed as a blister pack assembly including said gel material enclosed between upper and lower layers of flexible film.

24. The power tool recited in claim 23, said chamber and said handle gripping portion each having a curved outer surface.

25. The power tool recited in claim 14, said tool comprising a drill and said handle comprising a drill handle, said gripping portion comprising opposite side surfaces of said drill handle, said chamber comprising two said chambers discrete from each other, one said chamber extending outwardly from each said side surface.

26. The power tool recited in claim 14, said tool comprising a sander and said handle comprising a sander handle, said gripping portion comprising a top and two side surfaces, said chamber comprising three chambers discrete from each other, one said chamber extending outwardly from each of said top surface and said side surfaces.

27. A gripping handle comprising:

a housing;

a blister pack assembly disposed on said housing and including a chamber of gel material enclosed between upper and lower layers of flexible film; and a

cover piece having an aperture, wherein,

said cover piece defines the outer surface of said handle at the location of said cover piece and said chamber protrudes through said aperture.

28. The handle recited in claim 27, said cover piece made of a material which is relatively hard as compared to said gel material.

29. The handle recited in claim 27 further comprising a flexible sheet, said flexible sheet disposed between said blister pack assembly and said cover piece and having a protrusion extending through said aperture and accommodating said chamber.

30. The handle recited in claim 27, said housing defining a recess, said blister pack assembly disposed in said recess.

31. A gripping handle comprising:
a housing including a surface defining an aperture; and
a blister pack assembly disposed on said housing and including a chamber of gel material enclosed between upper and lower layers of flexible film, said blister pack assembly maintained in said housing behind said surface with said chamber protruding through said aperture.

32. The gripping handle recited in claim 31, wherein said upper and lower layers of flexible film are sealed to each other to define a plurality of discrete chambers.

33. A power tool comprising:
a housing having a handle;
a motor to actuate an output member of the tool;
a chamber enclosing a gel material disposed on said handle;
and a cover piece made of a material which is relatively hard as compared to said gel material, said cover piece disposed on said handle and including an aperture through which said chamber protrudes.

34. The power tool recited in claim 33, wherein said chamber is formed in a respective blister pack.

35. A power drill comprising:

a main body;

a handle having opposite side surfaces each defining a gripping region;

two chambers encapsulating a gel material, one said chamber protruding outwardly from said gripping region of each said opposite side surface, said chambers discrete from each other.

36. The drill recited in claim 35 comprising four said chambers encapsulating a gel material, two of said chambers disposed to protrude from each said gripping region, each of said chambers discrete from each other.

37. The drill recited in claim 35, said drill further comprising two cover pieces having an aperture therethrough, one said cover piece disposed on each said opposite side surface and defining at least a portion of the gripping region of the handle at the locations of said cover pieces, each said chamber protruding through one said aperture.

38. A power sander comprising:

a housing including a main body having an upper gripping portion;

a drive motor disposed within said main body;

a sanding platen extending downwardly from same main body and being driven by said drive motor; and

a chamber encapsulating a gel material, said chamber protruding from an upper surface of said gripping portion.

39. The power sander recited in claim 38 comprising three said chambers, one said chamber protruding upwardly from said upper surface of said gripping

portion and the other two chambers protruding laterally from side surfaces of said gripping portion.

40. A power sander comprising:
a housing including a main body;
a drive motor disposed within said main body;
a sanding platen extending downwardly from same main body and being driven by said drive motor;
a handle extending rearwardly from said main body; and
a chamber encapsulating a gel material, said chamber protruding from an upper surface of said handle.

41. The sander recited in claim 40 comprising two said chambers encapsulating a gel material, each of said chambers discreet from each other and protruding from an upper surface of said handle.

42. A power saw comprising:
a main body including an opening therethrough to define a handle rearwardly of the opening, said housing adapted to receive a saw blade at a forward end;
a motor disposed in said main body, said motor driving said saw blade;
wherein,
said handle includes a gripping portion and a chamber enclosing a gel material protruding outwardly from said gripping portion, said chamber disposed relative to the gripping portion such that both the gripping portion and the chamber are simultaneously gripped during operation of the tool.